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ABSTRACT

Arguing that online searching will fill the research needs of many students while helping to reinforce valuable information retrieval skills that will support students in their pursuit of life-long learning, this guide is designed to assist school librarians with integrating online searching into the school library media curriculum. Chapter 1 presents some basic information about computerized databases, discusses the advantages and disadvantages of online database searching, and presents some alternatives for online service. Chapter 2 focuses on the impact of online searching on the curriculum, services, resources, budgets, and management of the school library, as well as its image and the roles of people involved in online searching. Integrating online searching into the school library media program is the subject of Chapter 3; this chapter also explores the popular online databases that are functional for schools. Chapter 4 provides some guidelines and recommendations for preparing the school library media facility for offering online services, and Chapter 5 discusses strategies for the training and education of staff. Chapter 6 deals with developing, designing, and implementing an online curriculum, and management concerns are dealt with in Chapter 7. Document retrieval and networking are covered in Chapter 8, and Chapter 9 provides information on evaluating the online searching program. Current online searching school programs from several states are presented in Chapter 10 together with brief explanations of the programs and the strategies used to implement online services. The final chapter deals with the future of online searching in school library media centers. A directory of products and services and an index are provided. Contains 107 references. (BBM)

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